



Christian perspectives on life in the military COMMAND®

SUMMER 2018

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**WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS
CELEBRATES 40 YEARS WITH OCF, 6**

**READY TO GIVE YOUR CHARACTER
MUSCLE A WORKOUT? 10**

**2018 NEWLY COMMISSIONED
OFFICERS LIST, 14**

SPECIAL FEATURE

**A NEW OCF INITIATIVE ADDRESSES
A CRITICAL QUESTION EACH
PERSON SERVING IN UNIFORM
HAS WRESTLED WITH: "HOW DO I
SERVE AS A CHRISTIAN MILITARY
LEADER?" SEE PAGES 2 & 18**



Building Christian military leaders, families, fellowships...*for a lifetime*

3 goals for integrating faith into your life

On a sweltering August day, my boss, Brig Gen Lance Lord (yes, I was working for the Lord), “invited” me to take a jog around Alabama’s Maxwell AFB (yes, Air Force folks do run). While doing my best to keep up, Brig Gen Lord asked me what I wanted out of my career. Being a baby Christian, I quickly offered up a prayer to the Lord of All, “Lord Jesus, please don’t let me say anything stupid.”



DAVID
WARNER

Executive
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I replied to Brig Gen Lord that, while I’m not sure how long my race for Christ in uniform will be, when I complete my race I want to be sure of three things:

- Finish with my integrity intact
- Cross the finish line with my family by my side
- Run my race for Christ with excellence

I wanted to share this story once again as OCF starts its second year of the Strategic Framework. The Lord blessed our first year as we tackled our four main lines of effort: Engaging Members; Growing Christian Military Leaders; Delivering Ministry; and Stewarding our people, finances, and facilities.

On 1 July we launched OCF’s **Integrated Faith Project (IF Project)** live on the OCF website after piloting it at several venues in January. The **IF Project** addresses that critical question each of us serving in uniform has wrestled with: “How do I serve as a Christian military leader?” The **IF Project** tackles this question and others by providing a guide for living an integrated life of faith and by laying a foundation through the example of Jesus and His power in four domains of life: *Personal transformation in Christlikeness; Family Life; Christ-honoring service in the profession of arms; and Community service and relationships.*

As I reflect on the three goals of my story, I’ll break down each one within the context of what I believe integrating your faith into all aspects of your life looks like.

Finish with my integrity intact

The word “integrity” comes from the Latin root for “wholeness” or “being complete.” To me, being whole means bringing your mind, heart, and soul into oneness with Christ. Once I gave my life to Christ, I had to commit to live by His principles and devote myself to His teachings through His Word. And I purposed to learn from the many godly examples in my life.

Cross the finish line with my family by my side

Family was never the same after I came to Christ. It became a priority that my daughters were in chapel

or church. Especially through White Sulphur Springs, OCF played a huge role in shaping our girls to where they made Christ their own.

Through OCF fellowships and community outreach—and even our daughter’s serving at WSS, leading their own small groups, etc.—the Warner family longed to be “on mission” for Christ with whom we served. This fulfilled what we believed we were called to do as a family and also kept us together despite the many moves and separations that come with the military family lifestyle.

Run my race with excellence for Christ

How would I live out my faith in uniform? Did I execute each assignment as a Christlike leader—serving as He served, and recognizing my opportunity to steward the wonderful men and women put in my charge? Did I forge relationships within the military and civilian communities where I lived? I was fortunate to be surrounded by godly men and women in uniform who constantly challenged and pushed me to be what the Lord was calling me to be. From their examples, I also came alongside those around me to encourage them to serve as Christ served and led.

With the launch of the **IF Project** (more on page 18), we are excited about offering a program that gets to the core of what OCF and the Vision is about: “The military community positively impacted through Christlike leaders.” Our Vision—the fruit we are called to produce—is accomplished through the Mission to “engage military leaders in biblical fellowship and growth to equip them for Christlike service at the intersection of faith, family, and profession.”

At my military retirement in 2010, I was honored to stand in front of Brig Gen Lord, friends, and family to proudly report, “mission accomplished!”

My prayer for you: “So then, my friends, because of God’s great mercy to us I appeal to you: Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him” (Romans 12:1, GNT).

I’m calling on you to embrace the **IF Project** and use it as a foundation for your life and as a key tool in your arsenal for your fellowships. May you run your race well! 🏃

USMA OCF

Colin & Amy Wooten // OCF Field Staff

In order to introduce graduating cadets to the OCF leaders at their next assignments and encourage ministry at Basic Officer Leader Course (BOLC) locations, our BOLC Warm Handoff Event featured OCF leaders from 7 of 9 locations. All BOLC OCF leaders provided handouts describing the religious support there with OCF and others para-ministries at their follow-on assignment locations. Of the 60 BOLC classes that have USMA grads attending, we now have 18 of them covered with USMA OCF cadets who have volunteered to lead ministry to their peer 2LTs. OCF was also able to solidify local leaders at a few of these important installations where we had no real OCF team leader. We all hope that ROTC cadets will contact either the BOLC OCF rep or the cadets they will be serving with at BOLC.

Pensacola OCF

Chet & Michelle Arnold // OCF Field Staff

The Integrated Faith Project gurus took a huge risk and let us pilot IF Project at Pensacola! It was a great opportunity to dig into this material and get some feedback from a lot of 20-somethings, a few 30-somethings, and from some of us who have been around a little longer than that. The information presented in the videos is jam-packed with thought-provoking material and we had a great time unpacking some of that with the flight students. It's clear the IF Project is a good step in the right direction as OCF steps into a vanguard position in the Christian leadership movement.

Maxwell-Gunter OCF

Hous & Tami Waring // OCF Field Staff

Pray for the transition of Tim and Kim Tormey to the Maxwell-Gunter job as Tami and I are now working on OCF Home Office staff as the Director of Field Operations. It's been a blessing to regularly tell others about how God is bringing Officer Training School cadets and officer students together for Sunday morning Bible studies. Chaplains and SOS students attend as well during their TDY weeks



USCGA OCF photo

USCGA OCF

Sixteen ensigns showed up for the Spiritual Commissioning of the Class of 2018. It was one last time to speak into their lives and challenge them, and for many of them it was one last reminder of the important principles they have heard all year. On their 70-year-old slate pieces from the chapel's roof were some of these commitments to: Love Christ, love others and to be an ambassador of Christ as a leader and officer in the USCG; Let the power of Christ in me lead in a Christlike manner, loving my boss, peers, and subordinates; Receive my identity from being in Christ, not in my military performance, freeing me to be selfless.

Carl & Christy Crabtree // OCF Field Staff

here. And then there's the SOS student Bible study held in the golf course grill area every week. It is amazing encouragement to see the men and women who are wearing the uniform and seeking to be godly stewards of the resources and skills God has given them.

Ministry News

Council election results

At its April meeting, the OCF Council

reported the election of the Council Class of 2021. Those who started a three-year term in June are:

- CH(LTC) Donald Carrothers, USA
- LT Matthew Drayton, CHC, USN
- Col Dale Holland, USAF (Ret.)
- LCDR Gordon Hood, USCG
- Capt Benjamin Pennington, USMC
- MajGen Melvin Spiese, USMC (Ret.)
- LTC Ryan Strong, USA (Ret.)

Continued on Next Page →

Council officers for the upcoming year are:

- President: MajGen Melvin Spiese, USMC (Ret.)
- Interim Vice President: COL Paul (Ric) Schumacher, USA
- Secretary: LCDR Gordon Hood, USCG
- Treasurer: COL Robert Jassey, USA (Ret.)

In previous years the Council election season was held in September. But to better align with OCF's change in 2017 to the fiscal year starting on 1 June, the 2017 September election was moved to this past March. The next Council election season takes place in 2019 with the nomination period for the Council for the Class

of 2022 running from 1 January—15 February. Council elections then take place throughout the month of March 2019, and later the newly-elected Council members will be seated on 1 June. For questions or further details, contact heidi.martin@ocfusa.org or 800-424-1984.

OCF Council Fall meeting

If you are interested in attending OCF Council's fall meeting 18-21 October at OCF's Springs Canyon Conference Center, please contact Heidi Martin at heidi.martin@ocfusa.org or 800-424-1984.

Council Spring wrap-up

With the theme of "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor" (Ecclesiastes 4:9) at the heart

of its work, OCF Council met 19-21 April at OCF's White Sulphur Springs Conference Center in Manns Choice, Pennsylvania, for the first of its two meetings this year.

Both Council and OCF's home office staff worked together as they grappled with key ministry objectives and efforts to find godly solutions. The home office directors and staff were praised for their great strides made in embracing change with new technologies and processes to shape and evolve the ongoing Strategic Framework efforts.

A significant effort this year has been the Integrated Faith Project (IF Project). This video series and study material will reach our military community and provide resources for living more Christlike while serving in uniform. This God-inspired

BIRTHS

Chiara Ursula Miglietta, 8 April 2018, daughter of **MAJ Mario and Victoria Miglietta, USA**, Miami Beach, FL.

WEDDINGS

LTC James Ware, USA (Ret.), married **Dawn Behrens** on 5 May 2018. Their home is Aldie, VA.

TAPS

CH(MAJ) Brian Curry, USA, 24 May 2018, husband of **Melissa Curry**, Le Claire, IA.

Audrey Rose David, 20 February 2018, daughter of **LTJG Justin and Emily Davis, USCG**, Lynwood, WA.

COL Michael DeBow, USA (Ret.), 11 March 2018, husband of **Mary Alice DeBow**, San Marcos, TX.

Barbara (Bobbe) Graham, 31 May 2018, widow of **Lt Col Ward Graham, USAF (Ret.)**, Newberg, OR. Ward and Bobbe Graham served as OCF Field Staff Reps from 1987-2003.

Maj Richard Ness, USAF (Ret.), 14 January 2018, husband of **Amy Ness**, Greeley, CO.

Hope Raimer, 3 June 2018, wife of **Edward Raimer**, Winter Haven, FL.

LTC Cecil Kenneth Simmons, USA (Ret.), 15 May 2018, husband of

Marilyn Simmons, Leavenworth, KS.

LTC Jay Thoman, USA, 30 April 2018, husband of **Jennifer Thoman**, Arlington VA.

HONOR FUND

The OCF Honor Fund gift is a meaningful way to honor or remember someone special in your life while also supporting the ministry of Officers' Christian Fellowship.

HONOR

Alan Leonard

By Mr. Canon Maggi

Brig Gen David Warner, USAF (Ret.)

By Ms. Ramona Spilman

CAPT Terry Grant USCG (Ret.)

By The Bridge Church at Bear Creek

CDT Perry Reed Jenkins Jr., USCG

By Mr. & Mrs. Perry Jenkins

Ch(Col) & Mrs. Gregory Tate, USAF (Ret.)

By Col & Mrs. Lawrence Schaad, USAF (Ret.)

Commandant of the Coast Guard, ADM Paul Zukunft, USCG

By Mr. & Mrs. Ken Prime

Dr. Martin Carlisle

By Mr. Reagan Mullin

Dr. Robert Spoede

By COL & Mrs. Travis Small Jr., USA (Ret.)

Jim Barrack

By COL & Mrs. Gregory Barrack, USA (Ret.)

Lois Oehme

By Ms. Kelly Mielke

LTC Tom Austin IV, USA (Ret.)

By 2LT John Hadley, USA

Maj Andrew Timboe, USAF

By MG & Mrs. Harold Timboe, USA (Ret.)

Mark Stubenhofer

By COL & Mrs. David Batchelor Sr., USA (Ret.)

Michael Jacobson, USMC

By Mr. & Mrs. J.J. Jacobson

MIDN Noah Pollock, USN

By Ms. Susan Pollock

Mrs. Susan Asbjornsen

By Mr. David Warthen

Ralph Phillips

By LtCol Paul Gillikin, USMC

Terri & Richard Grogan

By Mr. & Mrs. Michael Edwards

John & Natalie Lewis

By Mr. & Mrs. Michael Edwards

**The Clay Buckingham family
The Paul Robyn family**

By John Grinalds

USMA Class of 1978

BY COL & Mrs. Kim Kadesch, USA

MEMORIAL

Betsy Teuton

By ENS Jonathan Dillard, USCG
By ENS Justin Sherman, USCG
By LT Patrick Weaver, USCG
By Mr. Robert Sanford

Andrew Baer

By St. Stephen's Parish Inc.
By Ms. Sue E. Schwendiman
By Ms. Nancy Slack
By Ms. Lucy Der-Garabedian
By Ms. Lauren Nowack
By Ms. Jessie Jefferson
By Ms. Jane Lawrence
By Ms. Catherine Rubino
By Mr. Thomas Downie
By Mr. Scott Baer
By Mr. Melvin Baker
By Mr. Larry Baer
By Mr. James Warner
By Mr. James Alburger
By Mr. Gerald Kreft
By Mr. Arthur Woolley Jr.
By Mr. & Mrs. William Marshall
By Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Loehring
By Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Lloyd
By Mr. & Mrs. Steward Remaly

effort had its soft release on 1 July with the full launching of the IF Project set for 1 September.

Council also bid farewell to Tom and Jean Schmidt, whose fingerprints are embedded in OCF from over 20 years of OCF service, most recently as Director of Field Operation. The Schmidts, who formally retired on 1 July, were succeeded by former Maxwell-Gunter AFB OCF Field Staff couple Hous and Tami Waring.

The Council continues to work to improve its oversight for the ministry. A lot has been placed on the council members' plates over the next six months, with changes in committees, further development of charters, processes, and directives all in work. Aggressive work continues on behalf of the Lord's calling

and members with planned video-telecom meetings scheduled to occur nearly every month.

—CMSgt Vance Clarke, USAF (Ret.),
Special Council Member

75th anniversary

OCF's 75th anniversary is 31 December. Throughout 2019 we will celebrate what God has done through the ministry—the countless lives powerfully touched by Him for all eternity. Maybe it was in a small group Bible study, at a conference center retreat, or while attending OCF at the service academies or in ROTC that God moved in your life in a special way. Please share your story of how has God impacted your life through OCF. Send your story to: comms@ocfusa.org.

Save the Date

Hampton Roads Region OCF Picnic
15 September, 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Location: The Colonies RV and Travel Park, #5

Speaker: Dr. Mark Jumper, CHC, USN (Ret.)

This annual OCF picnic is intended to unite Christian military leaders and families in the Hampton Roads Region of Virginia for biblical fellowship, fun, and food. Meat, rolls, and beverages are provided; bring a side dish, dessert, or salad to share.

For more information or to RSVP (before 10 September): clayandmartyt@gmail.com

By Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wilhelm
By Mr. & Mrs. Richard Vick Jr.
By Mr. & Mrs. Paul Wilhelm
By Mr. & Mrs. Michael Weaver
By Mr. & Mrs. Michael Andersen
By Mr. & Mrs. David Ham
By Mr. & Mrs. Brent Penny
By Maj. Jennifer Kimbrough, USAF
By LTC & Mrs. Michael Bigelow, USA (Ret.)
By LTC & Mrs. Douglas Perritt Jr., USA
By Lt Col Clifton Hertel, USAF (Ret.) & Mrs. Joanne Hagadorn
By Lt Col & Mrs. William Robertson, USAF (Ret.)
By CPT & Mrs. George Rabb, USA
By COL & Mrs. Shane Deverill, USA (Ret.)
By COL & Mrs. Robert Baer, USA
By CH(COL) & Mrs. Randall Dolinger, USA
By CDR & Mrs. Steven Nichols, USNR (Ret.)
By Capt & Mrs. Scott Campbell, USAF
By CAPT & Mrs. George Lancaster, USN (Ret.)
By Brig Gen & Mrs. David Warner, USAF (Ret.)
By Anonymous

Maj Elizabeth "Betsy" Kealey, USMC
By Mr. & Mrs. Charles Thompson
By COL & Mrs. Larry Hahn, USA (Ret.)

CAPT Irvin Lindemuth, USCG (Ret.)
By Mrs. B. Carolyn Lindemuth

Capt Jake "Red Stripe" Frederick, USMC
By Capt & Mrs. Matthew Tiemann, USMC

Capt Mark McDowell, USAF
By Capt Christopher Peterson, USAF

CAPT Michael Dallam, USN (Ret.)
By CAPT & Mrs. Paul Ims Jr., USN (Ret.)

Cecil Simmons
By LTC & Mrs. Duane Ginter, USA (Ret.)

COL Dennis (Jack) Harron, USA (Ret.)
By Mrs. Betty Harron

COL Frederick Eisele, USA (Ret.)
By Mrs. Catherine Eisele

CW4 Ralph Thompson, USA
By Maj & Mrs. Neil Slattery, USAF (Ret.)

James Murphy, USAF
By Mr. & Mrs. John Saul

Lt Col Ward & Bobbe Graham, USAF (Ret.)
By Brig Gen & Mrs. Howard Ingersoll, USAF (Ret.)
By Anonymous

LT Roy Seaman, USN
By Mr. & Mrs. Delbert Elliott

Lucile Morehead
By LCDR Patsy Robinson, USN (Ret.)

Maj Richard (Dick) Ness, USAF (Ret.)
By Ms. D. Gibbs
By Mr. & Mrs. Gibb Green
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By Ms. Amy Spinnanger
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By Mr. & Mrs. William Howell
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Rachel Wade
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By Mr. & Mrs. Lee Nyquist

COL Leroy Hammond USA (Ret.)
By LCDR & Mrs. John Hahn, USCG (Ret.)
By MAJ & Mrs. Dean Rizzo, USAR

COL Michael DeBow, USA (Ret.)
By Mr. & Mrs. Pat Kane
By The League of Terre Haute
By Mr. Henry Hatch
By Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Houseworth, MD

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By CH(MAJ) Steven Satterfield, USAR

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By Col & Mrs. Alan Northrup, USAF (Ret.)

Sarah Powell Kinard
William Hearnberger
Polly Haley
Sally Ayers
Clyde Sasser
Dr. Don Harper Barrow
Weldon Leuschner

By CAPT & Mrs. O. W. Camp Jr., USNR (Ret.)

Paul & Kathleen Pettit
By Thomas & Anne Pettit



WSS photo

Special speakers sharing memories, praising God for His faithfulness, and the unveiling of a commemorative plaque were some of the festivities at WSS's 40th anniversary celebration on 17 June. Among those who attended the celebration were current and former director couples of White Sulphur Springs: (l-r): Paul and Dawn Robyn, Clay and Marty Thomas, Clay and Clara Buckingham, Ray and Helen Johnson, and Dan and Shelly Dantzler. Speakers at the event including Clay Buckingham were David Warner, Cliff Saxton, Terry Harrison, Ron Holden, and Lorraine Pettijohn.

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF MINISTRY AT WSS

BY PAUL ROBYN, DIRECTOR, WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS CONFERENCE CENTER

I'm privileged to often hear the testimonies of God's faithfulness and how He uses OCF's White Sulphur Springs Conference Center to impact the lives of the cadets, midshipmen, active duty families and retirees who come here.

That was especially true on 17 June when OCF leaders and members gathered to commemorate WSS's 40th anniversary of ministry. It was amazing to hear many great testimonies on different aspects of God and His provision for WSS through the years.

One such amazing story was of Paul Pettijohn, OCF executive director from 1972-94, and the initial purchase of WSS. With many OCF families being blessed by Spring Canyon Conference Center in Colorado, OCF leaders realized the need for a similar retreat center opportunity on the East Coast. Located just 3 hours outside the National Capital Region, White Sulphur Springs contained approximately 500 acres, a historic hotel, and several additional facilities including a horse barn, a bowling alley, and the hotel proprietor's cottage (now named the "Cochran Cottage," in memory of Paul and Patricia Cochran, owners of the property).

Paul Pettijohn came from the OCF home office in Colorado for the closing on the WSS property without knowing if there was enough money to complete the purchase. He called back to the home office to see if the rest of the money had come in, and of course, the Lord had provided! The check was signed. And as OCF leaders and members gathered on 18 June 1978 to dedicate the Harrison House for the first summer season, life-changing ministry at WSS began.

Beautifully, graciously, and consistently, the Lord has impacted his people through this special place—reconciling them to Him in faith and love, strengthening marriages and families, encouraging OCF members to view their service in the military as a calling and to actively integrate their faith into all they do.

MG Clay Buckingham, USA (Ret.), who served as the WSS director from 1987-89, recently shared with me a favorite memory of how WSS impacts our military for Christ. A graduating ROTC cadet, also a new Christian, had heard about OCF and White Sulphur Springs and asked if he could come and stay at WSS until called to active duty.

"When he arrived," recalled MG Buckingham, "he could best be described as a 'diamond in the rough' with the emphasis on 'rough.' He had been the ultimate party man at his university, but had a genuine conversion experience. After five months at WSS, he reported for active duty, joined an

Plan your next visit to White Sulphur Springs

The summer retreat season launching WSS's ministry in 1978 is over for 2018, but there are still plenty of opportunities ahead this year and into 2019.

- Bed & Breakfast (September-November; January-May): whitesulphursprings.org/bnb
- Winter Retreats: whitesulphursprings.org/winter-retreat
- Valentine's Getaway: whitesulphursprings.org/valentines
- Resurrection Retreat: whitesulphursprings.org/resurrection-retreat
- Facebook: facebook.com/WhiteSulphurSpringsOCF

OCF group, married a Christian girl, and eventually became an OCF leader. He now works full-time in a Christian outreach organization. The time he spent at WSS was crucial to him learning to successfully integrate his faith, his family, and his profession."

Ministry opportunities toward strengthening marriages and families started in the summer of 1978 with a camp program for military families to enjoy together. Followed by the additions of Allegheny Outback! in 1988 for high school students, Camp Caleb for younger children in 1994, and the EXSEL Discipleship Program in 2015 for high school graduates to grow in faith while serving and ministering at WSS, ministry to families has been vital at WSS.

CDR Clay Thomas, USN (Ret.), WSS director from 1989–2014, shared with me a story of the love of God shown to two specific military families while at WSS. "They each had a special-needs child that made it extremely difficult to take family vacations in a normal setting," he said. "Here, surrounded with Christ's love, their children were accepted and helped by our young staff members, guests, and full-time staff in such ways that they returned over and over through the years."

Not long ago a former staffer from Romania (the son of a Romanian military officer) told me how his time on staff at WSS was "life-changing," and how he had gone on from his time on staff to complete seminary through Dallas Theological Seminary. He is now in Romania serving in ministry as Chuck Swindoll's "voice" on the radio waves.

At the anniversary event, MG Buckingham recalled the role that Jim Meredith played in helping others see what WSS could become, to look past the "old, run-down building" that many others saw. Through God's grace, the generosity of countless donors, the loving volunteer ser-

vice of many in the OCF family, and the opening of Heritage House in 2011, there are even more ministry opportunities to the military community today.

Winter retreats, a bed and breakfast program during the off-season, service academies and ROTC conferences and retreats, and hosting local churches are other programs at WSS in addition to the summer ministry season.

I chose the location for the 40th anniversary commemorative plaque at the Picnic Pond because of the symbolism of the site—halfway up the hill between Harrison House and Heritage House. It poignantly represents the growth of this ministry and God's faithfulness for what He has done in the legacy down at Harrison House with what He continues to do as we operate up the hill in Heritage House today.

Of all the testimonies I've heard about what the Lord has done and why so many people love WSS, two favorites come from children. One son told his father, "I love WSS because it only takes five minutes for me to make a friend there."

After attending a week of Summer R&R, another family's son told them, "I love this place because it is more like a giant house than a hotel." I couldn't have summarized the heart of the WSS ministry better than these two kids!

WSS has always been, and continues to be, a home away from home for the entire OCF community—a place where you are welcomed as family from the moment you walk through the doors. It's a place to be encouraged in your military service, to sharpen one another as we seek to be Christlike leaders at the intersection of faith, family, and profession. It's a place of special relationships, memories, and reconnecting with the Lord in amazing ways.

I am excited and eager to see all the Lord will do through this wonderful ministry over the next 40 years. Here's your invitation to come and be part of it too! 🙏



Photo by LCpl Yamil Casarreal, USMC

As we live the unbalanced life we've got two options: one is to do things my way; or two, acknowledge that all that God's doing is right. All these things, whether it's an assignment, a deployment, or that question when someone stops me as I'm trying to leave and get home...I can either be annoyed or I can acknowledge that this is God interrupting my life in such a way that I need to be still.

WHEN A LIFE OF BALANCE ISN'T SOMETHING TO STRIVE FOR

BY COLONEL HOUS WARING, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, RETIRED

Editor's note: Examine your life for a moment. When it comes to the various segments of it—family, military profession, relationship with God and with others—do you strive to find a balance among all those things? Or instead, should you learn to thrive in the unbalance? This article is adapted from an interview with Col Waring in episode 5 of the OCF Crosspoint podcast.

The Christian life, if we are going to live it as Christ called us to live, is going to look unbalanced. It's going to look from the watching world that we are not pursuing the priorities they expect of themselves nor of what they project Christians should be doing.

The word balance carries with it a lot of loaded expectation. It implies a failure on our part not to achieve something, which leads to regret and more burden. The Christians I speak to that are desiring to do everything well to glorify God, they have this constant sense that they are not accomplish-

ing all that they ought to be accomplishing. At one of our Air War College Bible studies, one of the men said, “I just don’t like this whole idea of trying to balance life because it’s way too hard. How do you do this?”

We talk about priorities, which people often line up as God first, family second, and country third. And then they fail trying to do that because they find themselves spending way more time serving their country than taking care of their family, and God gets 15 to 20 minutes a day, so now they have this sense that “my priorities are all goofed up.”

I remember former OCF Executive Director Art Athens saying there is one priority—to know and love God and love your neighbor. And then everything else follows. At one moment, you are keeping God as your priority because you’re thinking of Him. But at the next moment, you might be serving your neighbor, and by serving your neighbor you are loving God because you are loving your neighbor. Then as soon as you deploy, you are still loving God because you are exactly where He’s called you to be.

The idea of thriving in the unbalance came from things that happened to Tami and me early in our marriage. We had two young kids and I was still in the middle of a training pipeline in the military. The Air Force was getting a lot more time, energy, and effort from me than the family. But that didn’t mean I was unbalanced. I knew I had to do long hours at work, and when I came home, still had to study and prep for the next day. But I also knew I needed to love my wife, have meals with the family, play with the kids, and help with baths.

The term I prefer is to be 100 percent wherever God has you at that moment. As often as I could be 100 percent with the family, I was 100 percent there. I wasn’t kicking back and relaxing, hoping Tami was able to keep the house going. But when it was time to be at work, I had to be 100 percent focused on my duties there. When I was deployed, I was 100 percent deployed—serving our nation and flying air support for those on the ground.

There is a reasonable use for the word

balance, though. Just as we don’t eat one type of food, so too my day is not weighed out in only a couple different measured quantities. One of the fallacies with “balance” is a tension, maybe between work life and my home life, or between my home life and my spiritual life, or my spiritual life and community life. It’s not tension—it’s all one integrated whole. It’s who I am all together.

The unbalanced life is lived out by a daily obedience to what God has called me to do, to be totally available for that work, and accept the interruptions, changes, and challenges that come throughout the day, knowing that they are from God. It’s living confidently so that I can really enter into His rest knowing that He is the God who providentially directs and leads my steps so that I can acknowledge that He’s in charge. On the other hand, “balance” is an implication that I’m in charge, in control, that I make decisions to accomplish all my goals—which may not necessarily be what God is doing. Man makes his plans but God directs the steps.

Rather than thriving in the unbalance, I see exhausted men and women striving for balance by doing things on their own effort, who carry around guilt because they haven’t spent as much time at home. They can’t figure out how to learn to love and care for their spouses as they know they ought to because there’s still work to be accomplished.

There’s a transition we grow into as we mature in our Christian walk where we change from seeing things as man sees them to seeing them as God is calling us and enabling us to see them. As Tami and I started having more kids, I had conversations with God, “Lord these are a lot of kids, a lot of food, a lot of college or weddings I’m going to pay for.” Then I would hear myself and think, “Is that your duty alone, or will you rest in the confidence that it’s God who has given you these kids, He’s doing the work, and He’ll accomplish His intents?”

The military life gives us a lot of those pauses, lots of opportunities to think about of being somewhere you might not choose

to be. Basic training taught me I needed to show up whenever someone told me to show up. The military helps us learn that we will do things we never planned on or thought on our own. I can take that into the spiritual realm, where I say, “Wake up, Hous. Get out your Bible and spend time with the Commander because He has called you into His office.” It’s essentially a reporting for duty, starting the day off right with the right perspective. And then I go from there into the rest of my day. I just learned it was something I needed to do, to make a part of my daily life.

We can make our schedules and make our plans, but in the end, we have to recognize that God will send interruptions because we’re in training. We need to be humbled and reminded that He has called us to serve Him with great excellence. But we are also to be available to help someone carry gear or just sit and listen because they just had a family crisis.

I’m not only a Christian when I’m out of uniform. Christ is in union with me when I have my coffee and when I have my quiet time. He’s in union with me when I drive to work. When I get to work, I need to be an integrated whole—the same man who is called to love my neighbor, whether it’s the commander above me, the peers next to me, or the subordinates below me. Like Daniel and Joseph that served in secular cultures as very excellent professionals, they didn’t always get to choose, but they integrated their lives in such a way that they were available for the work they were called to do. In the military, we sometimes get assignments and duties that we don’t volunteer for, and that’s a good thing. It’s a way of declaring God’s in charge. ✚

About Hous

Hous and his wife, Tami, recently transitioned as OCF Field Staff at OCF Maxwell-Gunter in Montgomery, Alabama, to working on OCF home office staff as Director of Field Operations. Both USAFA graduates, Hous was an F-15E Strike Eagle pilot and Tami a Space System Analyst. The Warings have nine children.



THRIVING IN THE UNBALANCE: Col Hous Waring, USAF (Ret.), was a guest on episode 5 of Crosspoint. Subscribe to Crosspoint in iTunes, or listen to this episode at ocfusa.org/2018/03/thriving-in-the-unbalance-episode-005/



Photo by Cpl Tommy Huynh USMC

ARE YOU DEVELOPING YOUR CHARACTER MUSCLE?

BY COLONEL DOUGLAS MASTRIANO, UNITED STATES ARMY, RETIRED

COL Mastriano likens character to a muscle that must be continually developed to conduct our lives as Christians in ways that are pleasing and honoring to God. Using the life of World War I hero SGT Alvin York as an example, Mastriano says that by saying no to temptation “we can know what manner of man or woman we will be whenever and wherever that hour calls us to noble action.”

What is the textbook definition of a character muscle?

Character is often defined as what you do in private. When we choose to say no to temptations in the privacy of our homes, or go against the tide and say no to peer pressure, we're starting to develop our moral character. We can predetermine how we will act in a crisis, in that critical moment in time. And maybe the fate of a nation or the world will hinge upon how we conduct ourselves. That's why this building of our character muscle is so important for Christians.

Would you say developing the character muscle is analogous with physical exercise?

Take a week off from weightlifting or running, and you're not as strong or as fast as before. Likewise, if I decide to compromise here or there in my Christian walk, I become weaker—I'm no longer building my character muscle. The core values of all the military services are designed to build our character muscle. We might deny this today in our politically correct atmosphere, but those core values are Christian-based values and ideas, designed to give our military members something to focus on to become better.

What parts of SGT York's life exemplify the building of the character muscle?

Jesus lays it out clearly about how we are to conduct our lives to please and honor Him, which isn't easy. Every decision we make as Christians builds or takes away from our moral character—who we are in our spirit, in our heart. But when we choose to do the right thing every day, we become morally strong, courageous, and brave.

After Alvin York accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, his drinking buddies showed up the next night so they can go out. Though York said it was really hard to say no to the temptation, he declined to go with them. He found that every time he resisted the temptations of gambling, drinking, and chasing girls, the easier it became to say no. York later said all those lures were to build his character. Jesus promises that if we are faithful in small things, He

will put us in charge of large things (Matthew 25:21). Just as the true Alvin York came out in battle, so too the real you will come out when faced with a crisis.

What would you pass on to junior officers and ROTC about developing their character muscle?

It's all about doing the right thing. There will be pressure to get you to compromise on your faith, to do the wrong thing, to conceal your love of Jesus Christ. I say no—don't be ashamed. Stand firmly in your love for Jesus Christ and tell the world, "No, this is who I am." Being as innocent as doves but as wise as serpents (Matthew 10:16), we can live out our Christian faith. If we're going to hide our faith and put our light under a bushel, what good are we?

During the Medal of Honor investigation of Alvin York's actions, many said, "Surely this only happened because you were lucky or a great shot." But York stayed firm in his faith. He and other heroes of the faith in uniform consistently point to God for guiding and delivering them—which is the sticking point for a lot of people. What do you do with Jesus if that's true—that there is a God who guides and helps? Therefore, the big thing today is trying to destroy faith in God.

How in your life did you see God using circumstances to develop your own character muscle?

In Operation Desert Storm, one of our greatest concerns was Saddam Hussein using chemical weapons against us. As our first tank entered Iraq, dust devils suddenly appeared all around me. I saw the wind shift to a favorable directional flow back into Iraq, contrary to normal flow—and it stayed that way over the battle field for days. Hussein's forces were deprived of using chemical weapons because they would have blown back on them. When the war ended, the wind in the battle area went back to its normal course. These kinds of things, while rare, are magnificent—showing you God's power.

What are some pitfalls of developing our character muscle?

Revelation 12:11 says we overcome Satan by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony. God in His infinite mercy and grace looks to men and women to stand in the gap to be examples and lights in the darkness. God's plans are perfect and extensive, greater than we can imagine or think (Ephesians 3:20). Satan sees the threat we pose to his works because if we are faithful to God, we could change the course of history.

How do we avoid pitfalls or recover from them when we do fall?

Jesus promises us that if we confess our sins, He will not only forgive us but also take away all unrighteousness associated with it (1 John 1:9). Get up out of the mud, confess your sins, try to learn from the failure, and press on. If you have a big falling, it's not impossible to recover from. Just be honest about it, confess it to God, and gather around some prayer warriors, some brothers and sisters you can trust to pray for you and keep you accountable. Satan will try to get you to compromise, to be ashamed about your faith or be more discreet about it.

God is still active in the affairs of men today, and He's looking for men and women throughout the ages and across the generations to stand for Him. What is interesting is that in the United States Army, even today in this post-Christian world of political correctness, SGT York—a strong, devoted Christian—is still held up as the model soldier for us to emulate, to have our soldiers be like.

Be bold and encouraged; don't be ashamed. God has a great plan for you. Stay faithful and watch His power unfold around you. ✚

About Doug

Doug, a combat veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan, a former faculty instructor at the U.S. Army War College, and also a military historian with a doctorate in history, has written two books. His newest is "Thunder in the Argonne: A New History of America's Greatest Battle." Find it on Amazon here: amazon.com/Thunder-Argonne-Americas-Greatest-Campaigns/dp/0813175550



BUILDING YOUR CHARACTER MUSCLE: You can hear more of COL Mastriano's story of SGT York and how it pertains to our lives today in episode 6 of Crosspoint: ocfusa.org/2018/04/developing-your-character-muscle-episode-006/



Photo by LCpl Tegra Shepherd USMC

The idea of sacrifice is fully demonstrated by Christ. If we're going to love people, then we need to sacrifice for them.

A CONVERSATION ABOUT GOD'S AMAZING GRACE

BY COLONEL ART ATHENS, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS, RETIRED

Editor's note: During a retreat for USNA midshipmen at OCF's White Sulphur Springs Conference Center in 2004, Col Athens spoke on the overarching topic of the amazing grace of God. The OCF former executive director was a guest on episode 3 of the OCF Crosspoint podcast to discuss the topic of amazing grace. Check out the podcast episode and audio links to his four-part series on Amazing Grace at ocfusa.org/crosspoint.

What are some of the spiritual lessons that military leaders might learn from the life of John Newton, the former slave trader who penned *Amazing Grace*?

First, just to see how God reaches out and draws us to himself. In my study of John Newton, it struck

me the amazing ways God uses His engineered circumstances to draw us to himself. Some people say "oh, that's just circumstantial or coincidental." The second thing is that no one is beyond God's reach. Certainly, John Newton was involved in some horrendous activities. But it didn't disqualify him.

How would you encourage those in leadership that God is there and working it out—it's not coincidence?

There are times of very challenging “engineered circumstances” that God is using toward a greater purpose, working all things together for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). That doesn't mean the situation you're in, from your perspective, is good—God works them all together as we continue to follow and trust Him.

It's not always easy. A.W. Tozer says the most important thing about us is our view of God. If we see God as He truly is, that builds our faith and trust as we walk through those circumstances and realize we really have two choices: it's all random or it's His design. When my sister was killed in an automobile accident, I remember how clear it was to me that there were two divergent paths: random circumstances or that there is a larger purpose to what I had no understanding or appreciation of. Even to this day, I wouldn't be able to explain why God had that as part of His design. That's where our faith and trust in the character of God become so essential.

In what ways can military leaders reconcile the spiritual idea of victory through unconditional surrender?

Many concepts on the military side seem to run counter to how God runs His universe. Full intelligence of what's on the other side of the hill before we make our attack is militarily very wise. In the spiritual life, our day-to-day walk, I don't believe God gives us the full intelligence report. When Jesus says, “follow Me” me without a lot of details after it, unconditional surrender is exactly how we have to live our life—take the next step. It requires a complete surrender of our will, our priorities, our plans.

What tends to be the most difficult aspect of unconditional surrender for leaders, especially young leaders?

The most common question I'm asked about living as a Christian in the military is, “How do I do this? How do I balance these things?” Dr. George Kuykendall used to say

4 lessons leaders can learn from Daniel

1. Have a right view of God. Daniel was utterly confident in where God had put him, what God wanted him to do, and that God would provide.
2. Be gracious but uncompromising. An examination of the life of Daniel reveals that he followed the rules of the king but did so without compromising his walk with God.
3. Be professionally excellent. Let God take care of promotions and such. Focus instead on being a Christlike leader.
4. Commit to spiritual disciplines. Daniel was continually in prayer and gave God credit for all things in his life.

there is no balance—it's complete and utter commitment to wholeheartedly go after it.

I think the struggle, even for senior officers, is how do you let go of striving for promotion, reputation, for all those kinds of things? In the Book of Daniel, Daniel is a powerful example of someone thrust into a leadership position who performed his job extremely well. Nothing could be found against Daniel in his professional excellence. If you're called into the military, you are to be professionally excellent.

Daniel was also committed to the spiritual disciplines, even in the midst of the very ungodly environment he was in, even when the threat of death was put before him. And he always gave the credit to God. It's connecting with the Father through Christ daily, constantly.

50 denarii debtor or a 500 denarii debtor—what's the greatest obstacle of seeing ourselves as the 500 denarii debtor we really are?

For some of my life as a Christian, I saw myself as a 50 denarii debtor. Even when I committed my life to Christ at age 13, I still had a lot of “hey, even when not a Christian I still went to church. Compared to my fellow students, I'm doing pretty well.”

It was my experience on a Book of Romans study by Martyn Lloyd-Jones, where he hit hard on how really sinful we are—Romans 3 in particular, “there's none righteous, no not one...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” It struck me what I had been saved from was pretty significant and deep. Not only original sin, but the sins that I was and had been committing, that I saw as not a big deal. I began to realize that God did think of them as a

big deal. And the price that had to be paid for those sins was very significant. Yes, I was the 500 denarii debtor, and that debt has been paid. It changes a lot of things in one's outlook toward God, toward people, toward oneself.

How do leaders show grace and love to those they serve and those that serve under them?

In a Marine platoon or Navy division, there are going to be some people we naturally connect with. But leaders have to have genuine concern for every single person, and they need to make that commitment up front to loving those people because some are going to be very hard to love.

You like to think it's easier for Christians to immediately come to that conclusion, but I'm not sure I always find that, though. We all need to be reminded of that. Two key aspects to loving our people are humility and sacrifice. Humility can grow out of appreciation to God for rescuing us, which should humble us to realize the grace into our lives, which then gives us the potential to actually care about others.

The idea of sacrifice is fully demonstrated by Christ. If we're going to love people, then we need to sacrifice for them. Our actions need to be so much more than our words. It's going to cost something if we truly love them. ✝

About Art

Art, OCF's executive director from 1994-1999, is a U.S. Naval Academy graduate who retired after serving over 30 years in the Marine Corps. He is now the director of the Naval Academy's Vice Admiral James B. Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership.



WHAT'S SO AMAZING ABOUT GRACE? You can hear more of COL Athens's story of John Newton and God's amazing grace in episode 3 of the OCF Crosspoint podcast by pointing your browser to ocfusa.org/crosspoint



USMA photo

CONGRATULATIONS NEW OFFICERS!

One person at a time, all across the nation at our service academies and ROTCs. To help each one tap into and mirror the Christ that dwells within, toward becoming a Christlike military leader in faith, family, and profession. OCF field staff reps, their teams, and local leaders passionately invested themselves into the lives of the young men and women listed below, our nation's newest officers, who are OCF members or non-members attending OCF activities.

Abilene Christian University
2d Lt Jacob Peterson, USAF

Auburn University
ENS Paul Gue, USN

Augusta State University
2LT Ashley Hulse, USA

**California State University,
Sacramento**
2d Lt Alexandra Graves, USAF

2d Lt Nicholai Ivaschenko, USAF

Case Western Reserve University
*2d Lt Tyler Korenyi-Both, USAF

Clemson University
2d Lt Cameron Dunker, USAF
2d Lt Ian Lovice, USAF
2d Lt M. Grace Bowen, USAF
2d Lt Evan Dunker, USAF
2d Lt J. Tanner Greathouse, USAF
2d Lt James McNamara, USAF

*2d Lt Daniel Taylor, USAF

Columbia International University
*1st Lt Adam Embry, USAFR

East Carolina University
2d Lt Clayton Brock, USAF
2LT Theodore Protonentis, USA
*2d Lt Grace Racanco, USAF

**Embry-Riddle Embry-Riddle
Aeronautical University**

2d Lt Benjamin McGovern, USAF

Iowa State University

2LT Jackson Hirniak, USA

LeTourneau University

2d Lt Brett Smith, USAFR

Liberty University

2LT Lawrence Johnson, USA

2d Lt Joshua Torre, USAF

**Liberty University Baptist
Theological Seminary**

CPT Opeyemi Oluwafisoye, USA

**Metropolitan State University of
Denver**

2LT John Soper, USA

Minnesota State University

2dLt Juliana Schroeder, USAF

**North Georgia College & State
University**

2LT Grant Williams, USA

Northern Arizona University

*2d Lt James Barnard, USAF

Nova Southeastern University COM

*Capt Jason Faucheux, USAF

Ohio State University

ENS Savannah Boleky, USN

2LT Erica Coffee, USA

2LT Lucy Wagner, USA

ENS Ryan Buck, USN

ENS Dan Butz, USN

Otterbein College

2LT Sarah Gray, USA

Santa Clara University

*2d Lt Peter Stephens, USAF

Southeastern University

*ENS Joshua Gorczyca, USN

Tennessee Tech

2LT Calvin Hall, USA

*2LT Sarah Sholly, USA

**United States Coast Guard
Academy**

ENS Taylor Aguirre, USCG

ENS Riely Brande, USCG

ENS Douglas Brown, USCG

ENS Ryan Burk, USCG

ENS Kurt Caminske, USCG

ENS Victoria Castleberry, USCG

ENS Cory Creswell, USCG

ENS Jordan Fonville, USCG

ENS Kiera Foster, USCG

ENS Joel Geist, USCG

ENS John Groen, USCG

ENS Kermit Heiser, USCG

ENS Erik Hollenbeck, USCG

ENS Yuxing Hu, USCG

ENS Luke Orr, USCG

ENS Luke Rehfuss, USCG

ENS Spencer Smith, USCG

ENS Logan Sullivan, USCG

ENS Gregory Wilcox, USCG

United States Air Force Academy

2d Lt Dustin Brown, USAF

2d Lt Peter Carillo, USAF

2d Lt Samuel Chadwick, USAF

2d Lt Jimmy Davis, USAF

2d Lt Anna Demoret, USAF

2d Lt Elizabeth Denton, USAF

2d Lt Pankaja Dissanayake, USAF

2d Lt Chris Dukarm, USAF

2d Lt Amanda Elliott, USAF

2d Lt Joy Fordyce, USAF

2d Lt Lauren Fortney, USAF

2d Lt Nicholas Gerlach, USAF

2d Lt Cheyenne Gonzales, USAF

2d Lt Colin Grahl, USAF

2d Lt Matt Haijsman, USAF

2d Lt Micah Hayden, USAF

2d Lt Joshua Holden, USAF

2d Lt Zack Hopkins, USAF

2d Lt Michelle Ingle, USAF

2d Lt Jasmine Jorden, USAF

2d Lt Lydia Kim, USAF

2d Lt Nathaniel Kuypers, USAF

2d Lt Stephen Larson, USAF

2d Lt Kasey Raia, USAF

2d Lt Monica Riggs, USAF

2d Lt Caleb Ringe, USAF

2d Lt Brendan Rodisch, USAF

2d Lt Aaric Rogers, USAF

2d Lt Patrick Rovney, USAF

2d Lt Orchydia Sackey, USAF

2d Lt Jordan Schumacher, USAF

2d Lt Samuel Sentongo, USAF

2d Lt Emily Shunk, USAF

2d Lt Joshua Surver, USAF

2d Lt Kevin Tierney, USAF

2d Lt Kayla Tinucci, USAF

2d Lt Megan Upp, USAF

2d Lt Christana Wagner, USAF

2d Lt Elena Wang, USAF

2d Lt Hunter Ward, USAF

2d Lt Joshua Warren, USAF

2d Lt Josiah Williams, USAF

2d Lt Nate Ziegler, USAF

United States Military Academy

2LT Andrew Baldwin, USA

2LT Matthew Benjamin, USA

2LT Montana Bilger, USA

2LT Christian Bledsoe, USA

2LT Jessica Boerner, USA

2LT MacKenzie Clark, USA

2LT Daniel Davis II, USA

2LT Natalie Dent, USA

2LT Liam Fulton, USA

2LT Samuel Galbreath, USA

2LT Francesca Gay, USA

2LT Rebecca Griswold, USA

2LT Camiesha Jackson, USA

2LT Robert Koontz, USA

2LT Freddy Luna, USA

2LT Shemar McCuller, USA

2LT Anna Motes, USA

2LT Jacob Nuding, USA

2LT Evan Pape, USA

2LT Hayden Penn, USA

2LT Jacqueline Parker, USA

2LT Benjamin Parmer, USA

2LT Rachel Pennington, USA

2LT Madison Ruppel, USA

2LT Joy Schaeffer, USA

2LT Thomas Schafer, USA

2LT Jack Schannep, USA

2LT Steele Sessions, USA

2LT Courtney Smith, USA

2LT Noah Tetro, USA

2LT John Veldkamp, USA

2LT Claire Wang, USA

2LT Bridget Wasdahl, USA

2LT Will Whitaker, USA

2LT Joseph Wilkerson III, USA

2LT Mackenzie Williams, USA

2LT Sterling Willman, USA

2LT Rachel York, USA

United States Naval Academy

ENS Melissa Allen, USN

ENS Hannah Collins, USN

ENS Kylee Daitz, USN

ENS Liberty Detty, USN

ENS Abigail Dickson, USN

ENS Connor Dittmar, USN

ENS Cara Edwards, USN

ENS Erin Evans, USN

ENS Anne Fisher, USN

ENS Wade-Watta Kamara, USN

ENS Christina Louie, USN

ENS Aaron Martinez, USN

ENS Warren Mazanec, USN

ENS Greg McKnight, USN

ENS Jade Ann Miller, USN

ENS K. Marie Parriott, USN

ENS Maranda Ratcliff, USN

ENS Christina Roberts, USN

ENS Samuel Siprelle, USN

ENS Nicole Thatcher, USN

ENS Timothy Tidwell, USN

ENS Zachary Tyra, USN

ENS Caroline Watts, USN

ENS Zachary Weseman, USN

ENS Zachary Weston, USN

ENS Abigail White, USN

ENS Yurfeng Seth Xie, USN

ENS Alex Young, USN

University of Houston

2d Lt Christopher Pritchard, USAF

University of Minnesota

2d Lt Connor Amundson, USAF

ENS Sean Branick, USN

2ndLt Matt Brigadier, USMC

ENS Seayoung Cha, USN

ENS Alison Ford, USN

2LT Brandon Johnson, USA

ENS Chase Johnson, USN

2LT Samuel Kneen, USA

2d Lt Ryan Koch, USAF

2LT Micah Olson, USA

ENS Drew Tyskwinski, USN

University of Nebraska

*2d Lt Chance Phifer, USAF

University of North Florida

2LT Gabriel Papet, USA

University of St. Thomas

2d Lt Marcus Forney, USAF

2d Lt Luke Hubers, USAF

2d Lt Bryjett Nordmark, USAF

2d Lt Caleb Smith, USAF

ENS Maria Stephenson, USN

2d Lt Ryan Terlisner, USAF

2d Lt Keith Vollendorf, USAF

2d Lt Tukker Willson, USAF

University of Tennessee—Knoxville

*2LT Steven Harris, USA

US Merchant Marine Academy

ENS Caleb Bradberry, USN

Virginia Military Institute

2LT Noah Baker, USA

2LT Caitlyn Casten, USA

2ndLt Ross Schmeisser, USMC

2LT Darrand Williams Jr., USA

Wake Forest

2LT Je Kim, USA

2LT Charity Oliver, USA

Unknown University

*2d Lt Daniel Hartling, USAF

**Late 2017 graduate*



Photo by Rob Allen

Clemson OCF

Above: “We do lots of things together,” reports Rob Allen, Clemson OCF local leader of the cadets he mentors 4-5 nights a week in his and his wife’s home. It’s “life-on-life” ministry as they study God’s Word, discuss leadership development, and attend church together. Earlier this year they were on the mission field in the Bahamas helping with a building project.

Rocky Mountain ROTC retreat

Top right: Cadets from Colorado-area universities attended the Rocky Mountain ROTC Spiritual Fitness Retreat at Spring Canyon earlier this year. Col Scott Frickenstein, USAF (Ret.), taught on God’s design for them as military leaders. A specific break-out session led by military officers allowed the cadets to more deeply and personally explore the “how-to” of serving as godly men and women in the military.



Spring Canyon photo

Washington OCF-Valor retreat

Bottom right: Faithful leadership and spiritual transformation were two key discussion topics among over a dozen cadets/mids and leaders attending the Washington OCF/Valor retreat in Bellevue, Washington. Sessions included the use of the IF Project resources, an officer panel fielding questions on Christlike life and leadership, and two talks by Puget Sound OCF Field Staff couple Larry and Bobbie Simpson, pictured in the front.



Christian Rainbolt photo



USMA OCF photo



OCF/Valor photo



Photo by Janell Deckard

USMA missions trip

Above: Building two houses, evangelizing in the streets, visiting a leper colony, and conducting a children's program in a poor neighborhood were some of activities on the annual USMA mission trip to the Dominican Republic. A baptism, reprioritizations, and rededications to the Lord, and pondering the question of "what is the next step Jesus is calling you to take?" were some of the ways the Holy Spirit moved powerfully everyone's lives.

OCF/Valor Midwest ROTC retreat

Top left: "Best retreat I've ever attended—I'll be back next year" was just one of many expressions of thanks heard from students at the retreat earlier this year. Seventy students heard teachings from the Word of God and gleaned from the vast experiences of military men and women who also attended the retreat. Mentoring over the weekend included a student who claimed to be an atheist prior to the retreat.

Fort Knox pray & plan

Bottom left: In partnership with The Navigators and CRU Valor, OCF participates every year in chapel service outreach with chaplains at Fort Knox's annual Army ROTC Advanced Camp, where over 10,000 Army ROTC cadets participate in summer training. Bob and Lola Deckard, who coordinate and lead the co-op, met with other volunteers for a strategic pray and plan session in preparation for the Bible studies held after chapel services.



Study program is key to living a life of faith

By OCF Communications

Choosing to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces is a noble calling and an adventure. Military leaders have daunting responsibilities, professional challenges that can seem overwhelming, and frequent moves and deployments put stress on the family and relationships.

And if you're endeavoring to be a Christ-like military leader as well, you have a faith that doesn't seem to be welcome in many places. A life of faith in the military for leaders and family members alike poses some unique challenges which may you find yourself asking, *What if...*?

- *What if* I could become more Christ-like in character and gain godly wisdom?
- *What if* I could serve God and His gospel in even the secular realms of life?
- *What if* I could bear fruit in my personal and professional life every day?

The answer to these questions is yes, you can! And OCF's new **Integrated Faith Project (IF Project)** can put you on a journey toward the realization of those "what-ifs." It lays a foundation for living a faith-filled and faith-empowered life in the military to be on mission for Jesus' call to His disciples.

Now available at the OCF website (ocfusa.org/ifproject), the **IF Project** provides a framework for living an integrated life of faith in four domains of life: personal transformation, professional work, family, and relationships within your community. These lay a foundation for integrated living through the example of Jesus and His power.

This study program is perfect for your local Bible study or fellowship group. The **IF Project** contains five sessions that start with a video presentation followed by small group discussion. After a short introduction session, the remaining four domain sessions contain a variety of additional in-depth resources. It's important to keep in mind that the **IF Project** sessions comprise a framework and are not meant to be an exhaustive study of each of the four domains. The goal is to seek out the other domain and topic resources to continue on your path of growth in the areas most needed.

OCF's intent for the **IF Project** is to offer it to every Christ-following leader within the military society. Lay and staff leaders will be key to making that happen through leading and facilitating the **IF Project** in local conferences, within small groups, and in discipling and mentoring relationships. Review it, present it locally, and increasingly execute the message of the **IF Project** in military life.

3 ways to engage in the IF Project

1. With your local Bible study or fellowship group. We encourage you to download and review the Facilitator Guide. Then download the Participant Guide, make enough copies for each person in your group—and begin the journey!

2. Working with others in virtual groups. If you're an individual interested doing the **IF Project** with others online, contact OCF at IFP@ocfusa.org and we'll keep you advised of virtual groups starting their journey in the near future, the schedule, what to expect, and more.

3. On your own. If you'd first like to solo it and perhaps lead others through it later, let us know at IFP@ocfusa.org. Then download the Facilitator Guide and follow it as you would if leading a group through the study. We are here to answer questions you may have as you work through it.

For all three approaches, let us know that you are starting the **IF Project** journey by emailing us at IFP@ocfusa.org. Also, you can provide feedback by filling out a short form at ocfusa.org/ifproject/feedback. We want your suggestions for improving the process and format. In turn, we'll keep you advised of changes, as well as new and significant additions and capabilities.

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COMMAND strives to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ in the U.S. Armed Forces by informing readers about His work through people and events related to Officers' Christian Fellowship, teaching them how to integrate Christian faith into family, professional and community life, and encouraging and inspiring them to minister effectively in the military society.

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Write for us

If you have an idea for an article, or if you would like to work with our editors on a variety of topics relevant to the OCF audience, contact Managing Editor Karen Fliedner: karen.fliedner@ocfusa.org.

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Member:
Combined Federal Campaign #10531



Captain Ryan Menicucci
UNITED STATES ARMY

Started OCF journey: Freshman year at West Point

Why OCF: As I struggled to finish cadet basic training, God met me in a unique way, resulting in completing CBT, as well as my baptism before starting the academic year, and an eagerness to serve the Lord in uniform. As I sought out fellowship, I came across an upper-classman who talked to me about OCF and I got connected very quickly, met tremendous other cadets thirsty for the Lord, and noticed that I CAN serve Christ while in uniform (via other officers' examples for me). The rest is history.

Why a military life: I initially applied to West Point out of pride; I wanted to do something cool and look really good to my friends and family. The Lord humbled me very quickly, and He met me in a way I never expected. Once I got connected to OCF, I realized that the Lord put me at West Point specifically, and

that I was supposed to serve the Lord in a military context. Sure enough, my military career is one of God's faithfulness to me, even when I was not faithful to Him. I would not do anything differently.

What's on your bucket list: Visit the Holy Land; hike the Pacific Crest, Continental Divide, and Appalachian trails; snowboard in the Alps; and train to do triathlons.

Best advice given you: When you're involved in a conflict with someone, assume that you are the problem in some sort of way, even if you're right.

Life Bible verses: "A man's heart plans his way but the Lord directs his steps" (Proverbs 16:9) and "For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out 'Abba, Father'" (Romans 8:15). I also like Ephesians 3:20-21, John 14:12, and John 16:21.

PODCAST: CPT Menicucci was a guest in episode 9 of Crosspoint. You can listen by subscribing to Crosspoint in iTunes, or going to ocfusa.org/crosspoint.



INTEGRATED
FAITH PROJECT

WHAT IF...

What if there were a way to integrate faith in Christ into every facet of life?

What if you could become more Christlike in character and gain godly wisdom?

What if you could bear fruit in your profession and family every day?

The answer to these questions is "you can," and OCF's ***Integrated Faith Project*** puts you on a journey of realizing that hope.

The ***IF Project*** provides a guide for living an integrated life of faith in four domains of life by laying a foundation through the example of Jesus and His power. These domains are growth in personal transformation, profession, family, and relationships within your community.

Each session starts with a video presentation followed by small-group discussion. Sessions are supported by a variety of resources for personal or group study to assist in applying the lessons learned.

Be part of the IF Project today!

ocfusa.org/ifproject